Met Office

NEWS

# Communicate smarter about climate change action

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## New online tool will help communicate co-benefits of climate action.

Policy analysts and planners will be able to communicate smarter about climate change action by using a new online decision-support tool which has been launched today at COP27.

Developed by researchers at the University of Leeds and the Met Office, it synthesises the latest scientific evidence on the broader effects of climate change initiatives, enabling decision makers to explain how climate change action can not only help with reducing the physical impacts from global warming but can help achieve wider benefits such as improving air quality, health and wellbeing and boosting employment. It also allows for greater consideration of potential trade-offs.

Together this will enable better choices on the type of climate action by allowing stakeholders to understand the extra benefits that come from choosing one type of climate action over another. In some instances, the wider benefits could help communities achieve the UN's sustainable development goals.

### Wider benefits of climate action

Dr Bianca Van Bavel, Research Fellow in Climate Change and Health at the Priestley International Centre for Climate at Leeds who is leading the project, said: "Research in the field of climate science is moving at pace and there is a pressing need for policymakers to have a way of accessing the latest evidence on climate mitigation and adaptation options, particularly the wider benefits they can bring to communities, health services, businesses as well as the risks they may pose.

"By having an awareness and knowledge of the wider impacts of their policies, policymakers can devise policies that achieve maximum benefits and avoid perverse trade-offs."

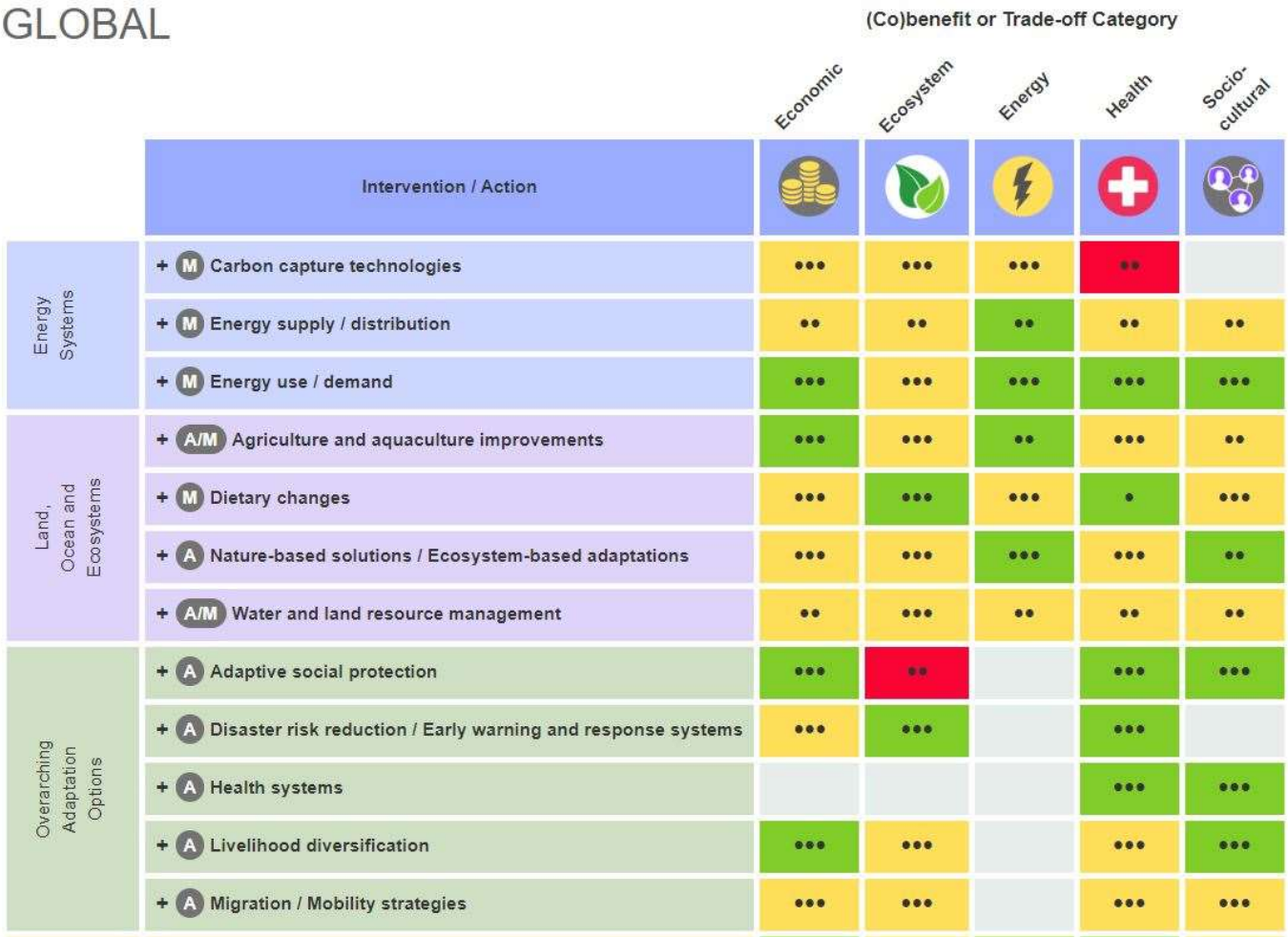
GLOBAL
(Co)benefit or Trade-off Category
Economic
Ecosystem
Energy
Health
Socio-cultural
Intervention / Action
Energy Systems
+ M Carbon capture technologies
+ M Energy supply / distribution
+ M Energy use / demand
Land, Ocean and Ecosystems
+ A/M Agriculture and aquaculture improvements
+ M Dietary changes
+ A Nature-based solutions / Ecosystem-based adaptations
+ A/M Water and land resource management
Overarching Adaptation Options
+ A Adaptive social protection
+ A Disaster risk reduction / Early warning and response systems
+ A Health systems
+ A Livelihood diversification
+ A Migration / Mobility strategies

Image: A screenshot of how the new co-benefits tool displays information in a quick and accessable way.

Professor Jason Lowe OBE, from the Priestley International Centre for Climate at Leeds, who is also Head of Climate Services at the Met Office Hadley Centre, and was involved in the project, said: "This research is relevant to both adaptation and mitigation decisions, it will help policymakers plan climate resilient pathways that also deliver other benefits. Tools like this show how our actions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change can have additional benefits to our lives and wider society."

## Bringing together existing research

The online tool builds on existing research that shows, for instance, there is evidence that many city authorities are failing to identify the wider impact of climate change action. Research published in 2020 reported that in a study of 521 cities which had adopted strategies to reduce the impact of climate change, around a quarter failed to report any co-benefits for their initiatives. The report argued that policies designed to deliver and maximise co-benefits are likely to get greater support from people.

Sir Patrick Vallance, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, has welcomed the development of the online tool and the consideration of co-benefits in climate action.

"We know that immediate and sustained action is needed to prevent the most dangerous impacts of climate change. By adopting a systems approach, we can prioritise solutions that result in the greatest net benefit, both for human health and the environment," he said.

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Government Chief Scientific Adviser

Image: Image and quote from Sir Patrick Vallance, Government Chief Scientific Adviser.

The project was co-ordinated by Professor Lea Berrang Ford at the Priestley International Centre for Climate. The online tool can be accessed on the University of Leeds Priestley International Centre for Climate website.

The research has been supported by the Met Office, whose climate research is funded by the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

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